

LOYOLA OF MONTREAL

7200 SHERBROOKE ST. W., MONTREAL 28, QUEBEC

482-0320



HOME OF THE WARRIORS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS

For Release Tuesday, December 19

LOYOLA HOSTS AUSTRALIANS

It was announced yesterday at a noon press conference that the Australian National Basketball Team would be making an exclusive Canadian appearance at Loyola College tonight and tomorrow evening.

The Australian Nationals will play two games commencing at 8:00 p.m. against Loyola's sixth nationally ranked basketball squad in the Physical Education Centre.

At yesterday's press gathering a telegram message from Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson officially welcomed the group to Canada:

"On behalf of the Government of Canada and myself personally, I am very happy to have this opportunity of extending greetings and a warm welcome to members of the Australian National Basketball team. We take it as a compliment to our country and to the great Canadian city of Montreal that you have chosen to include this stop on your world tour. I would wish you every success in your two games against the Loyola Warriors, but I am sure you will understand if I do not, since the people of Loyola University may have a vote in this country and you do not. But I can only without fear wish you a most enjoyable stay on this your only stop in our country."

L.B. Pearson - Prime Minister

Quebec Premier Daniel Johnson joined Mr. Pearson with a telecommunication:

"It gives me pleasure to welcome the Australian National team to the Province of Quebec and Montreal on their world-wide basketball tour. Quebec is honoured to have such a distinguished team in its midst and hopes their enterprising endeavour is a success.

Daniel Johnson

Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau also added his words of welcome.

The official party from the Australian Government present headed by Mr. Peter Lorschey the Acting Trade Commissioner and Mr. J... Stone, Australia's I.C.A.O. representative expressed hopes of continuing to promote a warm and friendly relationship between Australia and Canada through sporting contests of this type.

The Australian National Team is en route to Spain to compete in an international tournament as a pre Olympic warm-up. Last year the Aussies toured the U.S. playing against major University teams including Oregon, Oregon State, Brigham Young, Utah State and the Air Force Academy winning seven, losing ten.

By a good showing the Loyola Warriors could do much to improve their National Rating. They currently rank sixth and are undefeated in league play. Loyola basketball mentor Doug Daigneault is looking forward to the contest. "This is a great honor for my team and I'm sure that my players will respond favourably to the formidable challenge the Australians will offer."

The Canadian Amateur Basketball Association selection of the Loyola team to host the Aussies is a fitting tribute to Daigneault for the outstanding job he has done in building a first class basketball program at Loyola. Depth is the main strength of the Loyola Standard Bearers with veterans Terry O'Brien, John Goettisheim and Bob McConaugh providing the leadership and experience. While newcomers Jack Contos, Earl Lewis, John McAuliffe, Jim Ivy, Peter Phipps and Gene Lawrence have all taken turns being the individual stars in the team's seven straight league victories. Adding even more bench strength is Joe Zaganczyk and Peter Mullins, former Loyola High School Star.

In making the noon announcement for Loyola yesterday Father C.C. Ryan, S.J. asked for a minute of silent prayer for Mr. Harold Holt, the Prime Minister of Australia feared lost in a tragic swimming accident and then stated, "We feel this is a unique honor to host any national team especially one from sports minded Australia."

Loyola's Athletic Director Ed Enos enthusiastically echoed Father Ryan's feelings, "It is a prodigious privilege to have a national team from Australia on our campus. To me Australia epitomizes in so many ways the good that a sports program can do for the individual and the nation he represents. The emphasis placed on athletics in their country has played a vital role in promoting Australian nationalism; an idea or philosophy that we of Loyola's Athletic Department firmly believe in and thoroughly endorse."

Doug Potvin, Canadian Amateur Basketball Association President, who was instrumental in bringing the Australians spoke on the further promotion of basketball in Canada.

Steve Sims, Loyola Student Association President, and Claude Thomson, Student Athletic Association President were also on yesterday's speakers program welcoming the visitors to Loyola on behalf of the students and athletes.

Highlighting tonight's opening game will be the pre game ceremony which will include the displaying of the Australian Flag and the playing of God Save Our Gracious Queen. A minute of silent prayer will be asked for Mr. Harold Holt. O Canada will follow. Both lineups will be introduced and the contestants will then exchange token gifts which is customary in international competition. The Loyola Club will be giving Eskimo Carvings. Immediately following there will be a pre game tap off with Canadian and Australian dignitaries presiding.

All spectators including students will be asked to donate upon entering the gymnasium to help off-set the Australian team's travel costs.